THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) All the machines imported by Ordnance Factory, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh are in active productive use.

Modernisation Plan for Indian Ordnance Factories

808. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Ordnance factories plan to invest Rs. 250—300 crores annually on their modernisation;

(b) if so, whether the plans for modernisation have been finalised;

(c) if so, whether any Committee was formed to formulate the plan of modernisation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Investment decisions for modernisation arc taken on the basis of in-house exercises as well as on the recommendations of expert committees set up for the purpose. The report of one such committee is available.

Replacement of Arjuna Tank

809. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main battle tank Arjuna is being replaced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the new varieties proposed to be purchased; and

(c) the steps proposed to ensure that spares for the new varieties to be purchased are available?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.